

Department of Public Safety

The department gained support from the House and Senate to address the continuing problem of overcrowded correctional facilities. As proposed by the Administration, funds were appropriated to increase by 175 the number of contract beds at the Honolulu Federal Detention Facility and private facilities on the mainland. This will help ease crowded conditions at Halawa Correctional Facility and local community correctional centers.

In addition, the legislature approved the Administration's request to appropriate funds to plan replacement facilities for O'ahu Community Correctional Center and Kaua'i Community Correctional Center, and also for program planning and correctional treatment facilities statewide.

Funds have been reauthorized to begin replacing the Maui Community Correctional Center. Also funded is a new Inmate Release Unit to ensure that releases of all offenders under the care and custody of the department are in strict accordance with court orders. This will avoid delayed releases.

Several bills were passed that will help the department combat substance abuse. These laws will:

- Regulate the sale of chemicals used to manufacture illegal drugs;
- Provide a mandatory two-year penalty for manufacturing a controlled substance with a child present; and
- Modify the law governing drug paraphernalia sales, making it easier to prosecute violators.

- John Peyton, Director